

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 are pending herein, claims 1 and 10 being independent. By the amendment above, claims 2 and 4 have been canceled, and claims 1 and 3 have been amended. New claims 14-30 have been added.

In the pending Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,498,872 (Bouevitch, *et al.*). The Examiner allowed claims 10-13, and indicated that claims 2-6 and 8 would be allowable if re-written in independent form.

By the amendments above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2, thereby presenting claim 2 in independent form. Claim 4 has been re-written in independent form as claim 14, claim 5 has been re-written as (independent) claim 20 and claim 8 has been re-written as (independent) claim 27.

Claim 3 has been amended to depend from (amended) claim 1. All other dependent claims now depend from an independent claim which the Examiner has expressly indicated presents allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims present allowable subject matter.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of original claims 1, 7 and 9.

Early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

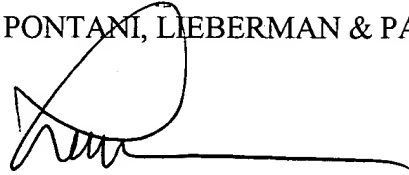
A check in the amount \$352.00 is enclosed in payment for the addition of 10 new claims and 2 independent claims in excess of three.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lance J. Lieberman', is written over a horizontal line.

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